

master's from Concordia in early education. She began teaching a unique program to the Council Bluffs school district known as Transitional Kindergarten, or T-K as she calls it.

Transitional Kindergarten is an amazing program that accepts 4 years and older who might not be ready for kindergarten. T-K is a wonderful opportunity to give children structured learning and development before entering kindergarten. Brooke says for many parents, they face a difficult choice when they have a child who isn't quite ready for school. As a T-K teacher, she worked with our youngest students to prepare them with the social, emotional, and educational skills.

Teaching T-K is how Brooke met Stacey Kuehn, who nominated Brooke to be Iowan of the week. Stacey was in the Harley-Davidson showroom, ready to buy her retirement motorcycle when her phone rang—she needed to become the caregiver of her two granddaughters.

Brooke met Stacey and her granddaughters when they enrolled in her class. Brooke told Stacey she could call her and that Brooke would do anything to help. She kept that promise. Brooke began helping out with childcare and offering support, and helping these two girls grow. And that's why I wanted to honor Brooke Curtis as Iowan of the Week.

Even though Brooke assures us that all her fellow teachers and school administrators would do the same, I know that Brooke puts everything into being a teacher and helping her kids. "Teachers are givers," she said, "and while I know we can't pour from an empty cup, sometimes I still try." She means there are days, especially over the last year, where she gives everything she has to her students. It was hard on her, and her family.

Brooke and her fellow teachers in the Council Bluffs school district have been teaching A&B schedules during the pandemic, where half their students were online and half in the classroom. "It's not a skill I wanted to learn," she joked.

It has never been harder to be a teacher than right now. That is why I am proud to support legislation that invests in teacher retention, teacher mental health, more funding for our schools, and supporting our K-12 families. Teachers like Brooke should remind us all that investing in our teachers is really an investment in our children.

Madam Speaker, Brooke's dedication to her students and commitment to teaching future educators ensures our kids in Iowa are in excellent hands. It is my honor to name Brooke my Iowan of the Week.

#### CELEBRATING THE REVEREND EMMITT THEOPHILUS CAVINESS AND EXHIBIT AT HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

#### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 25, 2022*

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Reverend Emmitt Theophilus Caviness and his new exhibit at the Harrison County Historical Museum. For sixty years, Reverend Caviness has dedicated his life toward change. Born a year before the Great Depression, Reverend

Caviness has led a life that has made a resounding impact on the state of Ohio.

Reverend Caviness' has made extraordinary accomplishments that can be felt across our nation, even in the face of poverty and racial division. After seeing a racial caricature in Marshall's City Hall, he vowed to dedicate his life to fighting for racial justice. His belief in love's ability to heal racial wounds was exemplified in his support of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His actions during the Civil Rights Movement led to his induction to the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame, where his imprint is housed at Dr. King's National Historic Site in Atlanta, Georgia.

To name his accolades would be to speak endlessly, however, I would be remiss if I did not emphasize several of his most noteworthy achievements. The Reverend's belief in public service led to him serving six years on Cleveland City Council. This belief bloomed further by sharing stages with those at the forefront of leadership and policy, including Presidents Carter, W. Bush, and Obama, as well as Civil Rights dignitaries Coretta Scott King and Al Sharpton. He would also receive the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Award for his lifelong membership and recognition from The National Center for Civil and Human Rights Museum. His undying hope in "the power of a conversation" is shown through a willingness to engage those of every demographic, regardless of their differences.

The Harrison County Historical Museum will honor Reverend Caviness with the Journey Stories exhibit. The exhibit will showcase memorable photos through his journey, including a photograph of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. visiting his Cleveland church. The exhibit also displays awards for his service towards change and shines a spotlight on his extended family.

So, Madam Speaker, I rise again in honoring Reverend Emmitt Caviness for his work toward creating change not only for his fellow Ohioans but for all Americans.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 85TH ANNI- VERSARY OF GREATER ST. STE- PHEN FULL GOSPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

#### HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 25, 2022*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize the Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church of New Orleans, Louisiana, as they celebrated 85 years of service on Sunday, January 16, 2022.

Greater St. Stephen deserves our collective recognition, not only because of its longevity, but because of the unique contributions it has led in building a wide-reaching community of both faith and service. Since the people of the church are the church, not just its edifices or buildings, we also recognize those members of Greater St. Stephen who are sterling examples of how everyday people, placing their trust in God, can accomplish extraordinary things.

Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church has played a vital role in New Orleans and has dedicated itself to spiritually uplifting the community and its congregation. I myself

am grateful to have a sacred space within its walls.

There are deep roots in my family here at Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church. I am especially proud to say my Mother, Pastor Eartha Flemings Carter, prayerfully served this Congregation, and became an ordained Elder. My sister-in-law, Elder Constance Carter, was one of the first women to be ordained as an Elder at the Church in September 1993.

Founded in 1937 by 69 faithful members, by its 50th anniversary, Greater St. Stephen grew to over 10,000 members; and by 2005, to over 20,000 members, the largest congregation in the State of Louisiana and one of the largest in our country. Operating in three locations around New Orleans and from a separate headquarters, the church served as a model and a training ground for other expanding churches as to how to manage their affairs.

More than that, Greater St. Stephen birthed the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship movement that would revolutionize the African American church landscape, expanding, at its height, to over 1,500 churches and hundreds of thousands of members in virtually every major city in the United States and in places as far flung and diverse as the nations of Africa, the Caribbean and Great Britain. It is famous for its powerful and inspiring gospel choir.

With all of its well-deserved national and international acclaim, however, Greater St. Stephen kept its roots and focused on its local community through its service at home by its vast network of volunteer members. The church established a seniors' residence; a program for women in need of special services; a college scholarship program to assist high achieving-needy students; a learning center for elementary students; and a middle-class housing subdivision community, Greater St. Stephen City, among other unique undertakings.

None of this great church's accomplishments would have occurred except through the stalwart leaders who God envisioned its members to wisely choose. This began with Rev. Arthur Gundy; through Rev. Percy Simpson; and on through the dynamic leadership of Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr. and his wife and partner in leadership, Dr. Debra B. Morton. Under Bishop Morton was when the ministry was extended to New Orleans East and the Westbank, becoming one church in three locations.

The promise for the future of Greater St. Stephen remains bright under the current leadership of Dr. Tyrone D. Robinson and his wife, Elder Jasmine M. Robinson.

Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church has continuously persevered through the homegoings of Pastors Gundy and Simpson, natural disasters including deadly storms like Hurricane Katrina, a devastating fire of the ministry's original Uptown location, and most recently the challenges of navigating the coronavirus pandemic.

Today we proudly salute Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church following its 85th Anniversary because of what it has meant and still means to our community and our country. I wish it many, many more years of distinguished service.

I thank them for so proudly shining the light of our Lord upon the Greater New Orleans community.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL ELECTIONS HOME RULE ACT

## HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 25, 2022*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Special Elections Home Rule Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia complete authority to set the date of special elections for local offices, like other jurisdictions. This bill simply removes a D.C. Home Rule Act limitation on the District that is not only inconsistent with the self-government granted by the Home Rule Act, but is also counterproductive.

This bill allows legislation we got enacted in 2012 that gave the D.C. Board of Elections ("Board") more flexibility to set the date of special elections for local offices to maximize voter participation. Although we sought complete authority for the District over the scheduling of special elections, the 2012 law, the District of Columbia Special Election Reform Act, did not include this home-rule principle. D.C. should have complete authority over a matter that is unrelated to any other congressional district and has no relevance to Congress.

The Home Rule Act originally required the Board to hold special elections on the first Tuesday occurring more than 114 days after a vacancy and allowed the Board to schedule special elections on the same day as the next general election if that election occurred within 60 days from when a special election would otherwise have been held. This inflexibility led to special elections being held on religious holidays and forced the District to hold a special election separate from an upcoming general election, costing the District hundreds of thousands of dollars. The 2012 law requires the Board to hold a special election on a Tuesday occurring between 70 and 174 days after a vacancy.

This bill is an important step to perfect home rule for the District. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

# COMMEMORATING THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK JANUARY IN AZERBAIJAN

## HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 25, 2022*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of the "Black January" killings, one of the most tragic events in Azerbaijan's history.

Thirty-two years ago, on the night of January 20, 1990, approximately 26,000 Soviet troops stormed Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku in tanks and armored vehicles. The Soviet military bulldozed and opened fired on innocent Azerbaijanis and peaceful protestors, including women and children. The resulting casualties of these brutal acts were 147 people killed, around 800 injured, 841 arrested, and 5 missing. I offer my thoughts and prayers to the families of those who gave their lives for the independence of Azerbaijan.

Despite these merciless acts, the Azerbaijani people were not deterred. They continued to fight for their freedom and became independent in 1991. The United States was one of the first countries to recognize Azerbaijan's independence and fully established diplomatic relations on February 28, 1992. The relationship between our two countries endures to this day. The United States and Azerbaijan are strategic allies and share common interests in the region and globally.

As the co-chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I urge my colleagues to recognize the sacrifices of the Azerbaijani people in their steps toward a free-market economy and encourage a recommitment to the democratic values for which many Azerbaijanis sacrificed their lives.

# HONORING OUTGOING DEARBORN CITY COUNCIL MEMBER BRIAN O'DONNELL

## HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 25, 2022*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Brian O'Donnell on the occasion of his retirement from the City Council of Dearborn, Michigan, where he has honorably served for over ten years. His significant contributions to our community are worthy of commendation.

Mr. O'Donnell is a graduate of Divine Child High School in Dearborn. He also attended Madonna University and Baker College. An active member of the Dearborn community for over two decades, he has served as a City Beautiful Commissioner, as Vice President of the Dearborn Federation of Neighborhood Associations, and as a trustee of the Dearborn Hills Civic Association. Beyond serving on the Council, he has worked for the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company and the State of Michigan.

While on the Dearborn City Council, Mr. O'Donnell was dedicated to promoting smart government spending while still ensuring that the City can continue to provide stellar service to the residents of Dearborn. His voice was constantly a part of the productive discussion and progress made during his time on the Council. From fixing broken streetlights to participating in countless community events around town, his focus was on revitalizing and stabilizing our neighborhoods and making them a better place for all. Mr. O'Donnell's leadership and insight are an asset to the Dearborn community at large. He continues to live in the Dearborn area with his wife Julia and their children Sean and Cece.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Brian O'Donnell. We are grateful for his time spent serving the citizens of Dearborn as a member of the City Council. I join with his family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in the future.

# HONORING FRIENDS OF LOXAHATCHEE

## HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 25, 2022*

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, a non-profit organization in Florida's 21st Congressional District. Since its founding in 1982, the Friends of Loxahatchee have been tirelessly committed to conserving Florida's beautiful natural ecosystems for future generations to enjoy.

The Friends of Loxahatchee was our nation's first U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Friends group. Throughout its years of operation, the over 300 member organization has supported environmental education and wildlife protection services at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge—the northernmost part of the Florida Everglades. The contributions made by Friends of Loxahatchee members and volunteers have introduced countless children across South Florida to science and the wonder of the Everglades. Their projects have engaged disadvantaged youth in environmental conservation and coastal clean-up efforts, funded transportation to the Refuge for school and community groups, and renovated the Refuge Visitor Center and its exhibits.

I am proud to honor the Friends of Loxahatchee for their years of service to the people of South Florida, their education of the next generation of leaders, and their dedication to protecting our animals, plants, and habitats. I look forward to their contributions in the years ahead.

# HONORING ANICETO "CHETO" PEREZ, JR.

## HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 25, 2022*

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Aniceto "Cheto" Perez, Jr., of Alice, Texas. Aniceto has dedicated his life to public service and law enforcement for over three decades and has made a lasting impact on the people of South Texas.

Aniceto was born to Aniceto Perez, Sr. and Martha Valerio Perez of San Diego, Texas in 1959. After graduating from San Diego High School in 1978, Aniceto knew he wanted to establish a career in law enforcement. He began his career with the Duval County Sheriffs Department in 1978, serving as a telecommunicator and jailer before transferring to the City of Alice Police Department.

Aniceto started at the Alice Police Department as a uniformed patrol officer and was promoted three years later to the Narcotics Unit. As a narcotics investigator, Aniceto performed undercover operations and served as a member of the Narcotics Task Force, working closely with local, state, and federal agencies. Aniceto was then promoted once again, this time to Sergeant Investigator of the Narcotics Unit, making him the lead investigator